

## BOOK REVIEW

*Entomological information storage and retrieval* by Ross H. Arnett, Jr. 1970. Bio Rand Foundation, Inc., 1330 Dillon Heights Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21228. 210p.; cloth; \$7.95.

The author of this volume certainly needs no introduction to our readers, being current President of the Coleopterists Society and founder of the *Coleopterists Bulletin*. Aside from these activities, he is eminently qualified to write such a text because of his membership on the Special Committee on Information Retrieval of the Entomological Society of America and because he taught a course on the subject at Purdue University.

The subject matter of the book is of primary interest to all entomologists and librarians. It is unfortunate that there are so few courses on the subject in most University curricula. Although publishing is a life or death matter to a research entomologist, he rarely obtains direct training which will assure quality research papers. The difficulties in determining what research has already been done discourages many students from the profession. This book will be of great assistance in both these regards.

Such a title cannot begin to convey the complexity of the subject matter. It is also a rapidly changing area of study, in which computers and other new equipment must provide assistance so that the entomologist can get on with his research. The scope of the book is reflected in the chapter titles: The informational problem; Information storage & retrieval systems theory; Stored information; Original documents; Preparation of original documents for information storage; Preparing documents for information retrieval; Search resources; Abstracts and indexes; Synthesized information; Popular literature; Societies, institutions, and personnel. It has an excellent glossary of many terms new to entomologists and appendices consisting of 1) bibliography of basic types of entomological literature; 2) selected list of commercial publishers and dealers in entomological literature; 3) entomological equipment and supply companies; 4) major entomological libraries of the U. S. and Canada.

No other book is available which covers this area of entomological activity in an up-to-date manner and with numerous innovations. Such a treatise must cover many topics briefly, but the reader is guided to the source information for greater depth. Key items of each chapter are isolated in eye-catching study blocks. Assignments, many of which are original and stimulating, are provided for use in a course. There are many optional assignments and investigations, making the book useful for seminar-type courses or a 5-hour formal course. Review checklists at the end of each chapter help to provide a check on the reader's understanding of the text.

There are few mechanical errors (due to the skill with which Dr. Arnett personally typed the composition for offset), and the general make-up is well organized. The only wish I would make is that it might be twice its length, in order to provide more detailed data such as the appendices and for more of Arnett's innovative ideas. I recommend it for every entomologist, but especially as the text for a course which no entomology department should be without.—R. E. Woodruff.